

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-5 are presented for continued prosecution.

Independent claim 5 has been added by this amendment. Claim 5 mirrors claim 1, except that claim 5 recites the transitional phrase "comprises" instead of "consists of".

B. The Invention

The present invention relates to a printing machine having a print sleeve that is easily removable.

In one of the novel aspects of the invention, the printing machine includes a moveable cylinder carrying the print sleeve. The moveable cylinder extends toward the operator and allows the operator to easily replace the sleeve. As a result, it is not necessary for the operator to introduce his/her arms into the machine. Sleeve replacement is therefore much safer, easier, and faster (see pars. 1 and 2 on page 2 of the application).

In another novel aspect of the invention, the printing machine includes a means for axially moving the mobile cylinder to an extended sleeve change position where the mobile cylinder projects through the machine side. The means for axially moving the mobile cylinder can be the compressed air circuit which is typically implemented to extend the sleeve, or any other means such as an axial pusher or a wormscrew (see par. 3 on page 2 and par. 4 on page 4 of the application).

In yet another novel aspect of the invention, the print cylinder is supported at one end by a releasable support means suitable to allow axial movement of the mobile cylinder. The releasable support means can include bottom piston L and flange R (see par. 5 on page 3 of the application and Fig. 5), or other means suitable for accomplishing this function (see par. 3 on page 4 of the application).

C. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 2 had been rejected as being anticipated by Prem (U.S. 5,802,975).

Prem had been cited to teach a printing machine having a mobile cylinder carrying a print sleeve mounted on a fixed shaft. The Examiner had also cited Prem to teach a releasable support means at one end of the print cylinder to allow axial movement of a movable cylinder. In addition, Prem had been cited to teach a means for axially moving a mobile cylinder to an extended sleeve change position in which the mobile cylinder projects through the machine side.

In order to maintain an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, the prior art must disclose each and every element of the rejected claims with sufficient clarity to prove its existence in the prior art. Applicant respectfully submits that Prem does not anticipate the claimed invention in accordance with the requirements of § 102.

1. Prem does not teach or suggest a slidably mounted mobile cylinder

Claim 1 of the application recites that the printing machine includes a mobile cylinder M that slides on fixed shaft F and carries print sleeve S. As illustrated, for example, in Figs. 1 and 6 of the application, mobile cylinder M can slide from a first position on fixed shaft F depicted in Fig. 1 to a second position on fixed shaft depicted in Fig. 6. The second position depicted in Fig. 6 shows that the operator can manually remove sleeve S because mobile cylinder M carrying sleeve S has slidably moved toward the operator. The slidable movement of mobile cylinder M is further described in pars. 1 and 2 on page 2 of the application.

Prem does not teach or suggest a slidably mounted mobile cylinder as recited in claim 1. As shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the device of Prem mainly consists of fixed cylinder 22 and moveable sleeve 24 which moves through side wall opening 23. Sleeve 24 of Prem is mobile, not fixed cylinder 22. The claimed invention therefore differs from Prem.

The Examiner cited col. 3, line 43 to col. 4, line 9 of Prem to teach a slidably mounted mobile cylinder. However, this section of Prem teaches that cylinder 22 is supported between sidewalls 20 and 21, and is vertically displaceable or swivelable in a cantilevered manner so that cylinder 22 can be adjusted in relation to other cylinders above and below cylinder 22. Thus, cylinder 22 of Prem is not slidable along a fixed shaft as recited in claim 1.

The cited section of Prem further supports the fact that sleeve 24 of Prem is slidable, not cylinder 22. As shown in Fig. 4 of Prem (illustrating a sectional view of sleeve 24 which is below cylinder 22), friction line 35 contacts sleeve 24 to push sleeve 24 to and from sidewall opening 23 so that sleeve 24 can be removed. Cylinder 22 remains stationary when sleeve 24 slides along cylinder 22.

Prem therefore teaches a moveable sleeve and a fixed cylinder. In contrast, claim 1 recites a mobile cylinder that is slidable along a fixed shaft. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Prem does not teach or suggest the mobile cylinder of claim 1 with sufficient particularity as required to maintain an anticipation rejection under § 102.

2. Prem does not teach or suggest a print cylinder supported at one end by a releasable support means suitable to allow axial movement of the mobile cylinder

Claim 1 recites that the print cylinder supported at one end by a releasable support means which allows axial movement of the mobile cylinder. As illustrated in Figs. 1 and 5 of the application, the releasable support means can be composed of moveable flange R and retractable piston L. When flange R is removed and piston L is retracted, mobile cylinder M can slide along fixed shaft F and protrude through flank H so that sleeve S can be reached by the hands of an operator (see pars. 4-6 on page 3 of the application). Other releasable support means can also be employed (see par. 3 on page 4 of the application).

As explained in section 1 above, Prem does not teach or suggest a mobile cylinder. Thus, it logically follows that Prem cannot teach a releasable support means that allows axial movement of a mobile cylinder. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Prem does not teach each element of claim 1 as required to maintain anticipation rejection.

3. Prem does not teach or suggest a means for axially moving a mobile cylinder

Claim 1 recites a means for axially moving the mobile cylinder between a retracted work position and an extended sleeve change position. The means for axially moving the mobile cylinder can be the compressed air circuit which is typically implemented to extend the sleeve, or any other means such as an axial pusher or a wormscrew (see par. 3 on page 2 and par. 4 on page 4 of the application).

As previously explained, Prem does not teach or suggest a mobile cylinder slidably mounted on a fixed shaft. As such, Prem cannot teach a means for axially moving a mobile cylinder. Prem therefore does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention, and it is believed that the claimed invention is not anticipated by Prem.

D. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3 and 4 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Prem in view of Guaraldi (U.S. 5,241,905).

Claims 3 and 4 ultimately depend upon claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that Guaraldi does not cure the deficiencies of Prem with regard to claim 1 as argued above. It is therefore believed that all the claims are patentable over the cited references taken alone or in combination.

E. Fees

This Response is being filed within four months from the mailing date of the Office Action. A one month extension of time is requested and payment is enclosed herewith. No further fee is believed to be due. If, on the other hand, it is determined that further fees are due or any overpayment has been made, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit or credit such sum to Deposit Account No. 02-2275. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), please treat this and any concurrent or future reply in this application that requires a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The fee associated therewith is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

F. Conclusion

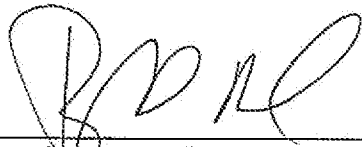
In view of the arguments presented, it is respectfully submitted that each and every one of the matters raised by the Examiner has been addressed by the present amendment and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy D. Meade  
Registration No. 55,449

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP  
475 Park Avenue South  
New York, NY 10016  
Phone: 212-661-8000  
Fax: 212-661-8002

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this document is being electronically transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents via EFS-Web on May 10, 2007.

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy D. Meade